

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided.

Applicants also acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 1-6 are allowable on the Office Action Summary and on Page 2 of the Official Action.

Upon entry of the above amendment, the Abstract of the present disclosure and claim 1 will have been amended. Claims 1-6 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding objections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

In the Official Action, the Examiner has noted that in claim 1, line 1, the first recitation of "The" should be replaced with --A--. Additionally, the Examiner has indicated that the Abstract of the disclosure exceeds 150 words.

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, and the Abstract has been amended to comply with the 150 word requirement and to remove reference numerals from the abstract.

Accordingly, the above-noted formalities have been corrected, and all pending claims are allowable.

In view of the amendment Applicants submit that claims 1-6 are in condition for allowance as indicated by the Examiner on Page 2 of the ExParte Quayle Action.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the references previously cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

COMMENTS ON REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

In response to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance contained in the Official Action (*see* paragraph 6 on page 3 of the Official Action dated July 29, 2008), Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims 1-6 in the present application.

In this regard, while Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the prior art references, Applicants submit that each of the claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the totality of the particular features recited therein.

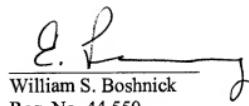
SUMMARY

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an indication to that effect. Applicants have demonstrated the allowability of the claims. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kouki ONO et al.



William S. Boshnick  
Reg. No. 44,550

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1941 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191

**Enoch E. Peavey**  
**Reg. No. 57,686**